



# THE EARLIEST SCOTTISH RELIGIOUS PERIODICAL

THE first native Scottish periodical with a religious purpose was apparently *The Christian Diurnall* of 1688 (?),<sup>1</sup> but its existence is doubtful. There is no doubt, however, about *The Glasgow-Weekly-History*, several copies of which still survive, and whose first number is dated "Nov. 18th. 1741." It was a small 8vo of 8 pp., which ran from that date for 52 weekly numbers till December of the following year. On its title page it is described as "Relating to the late Progress of the Gospel at Home and Abroad; Being a Collection of Letters, partly reprinted from the *London-Weekly-History*, and partly printed first here at Glasgow. For the Year 1742." The publisher was William Duncan, a bookseller in the Salt-Mercat of Glasgow. In single issues it is simply called *The Weekly History; or, An Account of the most Remarkable Particulars relating to the present Progress of the Gospel*.

The little periodical cost One Halfpenny, and was edited by the Rev. William McCulloch, minister of Cambuslang, who issued it so that people might know of the Revival movement then in progress in America, and later in England and Scotland. At the beginning it depended exclusively on another *Weekly History* which began publication in London on April 11, 1741. In May 1742 it undertook a separate career of its own. Its matter was for the most part in prose, but an occasional Hymn varied its monotony. Letters, original and selected, appeared from various hands, and contributors included most of those who took an active share in the Revivals of 1742-3 at home and abroad. Much of what appeared later in Robe of Kilsyth's *Narrative* was first printed in it. That the whole was intended to be bound in a volume is shown by the Title-page and Index provided.

The periodical was brought to a close by McCulloch with a Letter "to the Printer of this Paper," in which he said: "The *Glasgow-Weekly-History* was proposed to be continued for a Year: And that Space being now elapsed, and finding some Difficulty to get proper Materials for carrying it on, I desire you may stop here. . . . Tho' I do not approve of every Thing in this History, or Collection of Letters, as no Writer of a History, in any Form, can be supposed to do; yet there are many Things in it, which, I hope, by the divine Blessing, have been, and will be, useful and edifying to many."

Its place was afterwards taken by Robe's periodical, *The Christian's Monthly History*, issued from Edinburgh.

<sup>1</sup> William Cowan: *The Holyrood Press, 1686-8*, where the writer says that the title is given in *N. & Q.* April 28, 1860, but no print can be traced.



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